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Sentence for iron bar attack on epileptic

JAILED FOR 13 YEARS



Sentenced: Amir Arfi

A THUG who beat an epileptic around the head with a metal pole has been caged for 13 years.

Amir Arfi attacked the 31-year-old man on Boxing Day in Banbury in 2012 and was joined by another man who stamped on the victim's head.

Arfi, 20, denied the attack and had his lawyer argue the witnesses had been bribed to identify him.

But he was convicted by a jury in April and sentenced at Oxford Crown Court last Thursday.

Judge Gordon Risius, sentencing, said to Arfi: "This was a man suffering from epilepsy and depression."

"It may be that the physical injuries were not as serious as they could easily have been. But it is clear that the psychological injuries were pretty substantial."

The judge also said one man, named in court as Ben Field, had come forward as a prosecution witness but then withdrew his statement and became a defence witness.

Field claimed the victim had offered him and the other witnesses £1,000 in compensation cash to falsely identify Arfi as the attacker.

But Judge Risius said Arfi had disgracefully tried to pull the wool

over the eyes of the jury.

He said: "Whether or not you were behind the suggestion that Ben Field should change his account is unknown but what is clear is you tried to take full advantage of this second story even though you must have known it was false."

Claire Fraser, defending Arfi, argued there was no serious injury because the victim discharged himself from hospital.

She also said: "He is still a very young man and any period of custody to him will feel significantly longer than someone who is older."

The barrister said Arfi had lost his father when he was younger.

Arfi, of Middleton Road, Banbury, had eight previous convictions including one for robbery in 2010.

He was sentenced to serve 13 years in a young offenders' institution after being convicted of wounding with intent.

He was also ordered to pay a £120 victims' surcharge.

Speaking after the case, Det Con Paddy O'Grady, from Thames Valley Police force CID, said: "I am extremely pleased with the lengthy sentence that Arfi has received for this very serious and violent crime."

For crying out loud!

THIS year's quest to find the country's best town crier will happen in Banbury for the first time in the history of the competition.

National competition Loyal Company of Town Criers British Championship will be held on September 6, with 25 criers expected to take part.

It coincides with the tenth anniversary of Banbury's own Criers Championship.

Banbury's crier Anthony Church, who applied to host it, said: "I am looking forward to this event and to welcoming the contestants to the Banbury. It is a town I am proud to serve as town crier."



Anthony Church

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InBRIEF

Wild West theme for canal day

COWBOYS and Indians will float into Banbury later this year for the 11th annual canal day. The Wild West theme has been selected by organisers Banbury Town Council. The event takes place on Sunday, October 5, between 10.30am and 5pm.

Narrowboats could be decorated as ranches, saloons or sheriffs offices. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes. The popular event will be staged around The Mill Arts centre, the towpath, Sovereign Wharf and Tooley's Boat Yard. Last year more than 20,000 attended the fun day. For more information visit banbury.gov.uk

Swimming offer

LOCAL youngsters are being offered discounted swimming sessions at Woodgreen Open Air pool to help them get fitter and enjoy the sunshine. From next Monday, 18- to 25-year-olds who sign up to the Sport England Sportivate scheme – aimed at encouraging young people to take part in sports – can use the Olympic-sized pool for £2.50 rather than £3.90. Keen swimmers who venture into the pool more than six times over the summer will also receive ten free public swim sessions. The offer lasts until the end of September. For more information, call 01295 262742 or email woodgreen@parkwood-communityleisure.co.uk

Youth charged

A SEVENTEEN-year-old youth, who cannot be named for legal reasons, has been charged by police with "vehicle interference" after an incident in Creampot Lane, Cropredy, on Saturday, June 7. He was arrested on June 18 and will appear at Banbury Magistrates' Court on Thursday, July 31. Vehicle interference involves a person tampering with a vehicle with the intention of stealing from it or taking it without consent.

■ Relics go on display to salute anniversary of the First World War

ALL that is left of National Filling Factory No.9 today is its skeletal remains, dissected by the M40.

Its overgrown ruins near Banbury do well to disguise the role the munitions factory played supporting Britain's war effort during the First World War.

During the conflict, the 132-acre site's 1,500 workers filled about four million shells and mines with explosive to feed the guns on the front line.

The story forms a new exhibition at



ABOVE: An Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire lapel badge
RIGHT: Banbury Museum exhibitions manager Dale Johnston with shell casings that were made at the Nation Filling Factory Number 9 in Banbury OX68706

Museum reveals a hidden history

By Mark McKay

Banbury Museum, *Feeding the Front Line: Banbury's explosive role in the First World War*.

It is a story the exhibition's curator, Dale Johnston, said remains largely unknown in the town.

He said: "I don't think people realise what a significant role the factory played."

"People will drive across the site without realising it because the M40 cuts through the site today.

"But we hope the exhibition makes people aware of the history."

The exhibition has been two years in the planning since the museum decided to highlight how life on the home front in Banbury was linked to the front line.

It received a boost earlier this month in the form of a £9,700 Heritage Lottery Fund grant towards its £12,000 cost.

In addition to the original artefacts from the factory, secondary school pupils will have guided tours of the factory site, which is usually off limits to visitors.

Mr Johnston said: "I hope the exhibition will be a thought-provoking experience and people will think about what happened in Banbury 100 years ago."

"We are hoping that people will find the history of the town fascinating because it's a fascinating story that is not well known."

"Without the munitions factories then how might history have played out differently?"

"It's dangerous to speculate, but this was an all-encompassing war where production played a key role and each country was fighting to produce as much ammunition as it could."

The factory began production on April 25, 1916, after a public outcry the previous May about the lack of high explosive shells at the front, known as the Shells Scandal.

It was one of a network of factories Britain's Minister of Munitions David Lloyd George, established to meet the increasing demand for shells at the front.

The majority of munitions produced were small calibre six, 12 and 18 pound high-explosive shells, but it also made larger 9.2-inch calibre

ammunition and mustard gas shells.

Initially the factory was one unit designed to fill 100 tonnes of shells each week, but within a year a second unit was opened.

By March 1917, the factory was filling 7,000 9.2 inch shells, 10,000 60 pound shells and 15,000 six-inch shells each week, according to Mr Johnston.

Two months later, British artillery commanders on the Italian Front gave the factory a glowing recommendation for the quality of the shells it produced.

Mr Johnston said: "Quality was very important."

"The documentary evidence says that the quality at Banbury was very good – there are no records of dud batches."

"The staff were clearly dedicated and it seemed to run very smoothly because they could produce large volumes in short spaces of time."

The majority of filling factories were decommissioned after the war – demolished as the Government attempted to make the sites safe.

But the filling factory at Banbury stayed open to decommission millions of unfired shells. It was not until 1924 when the plant was stripped of its



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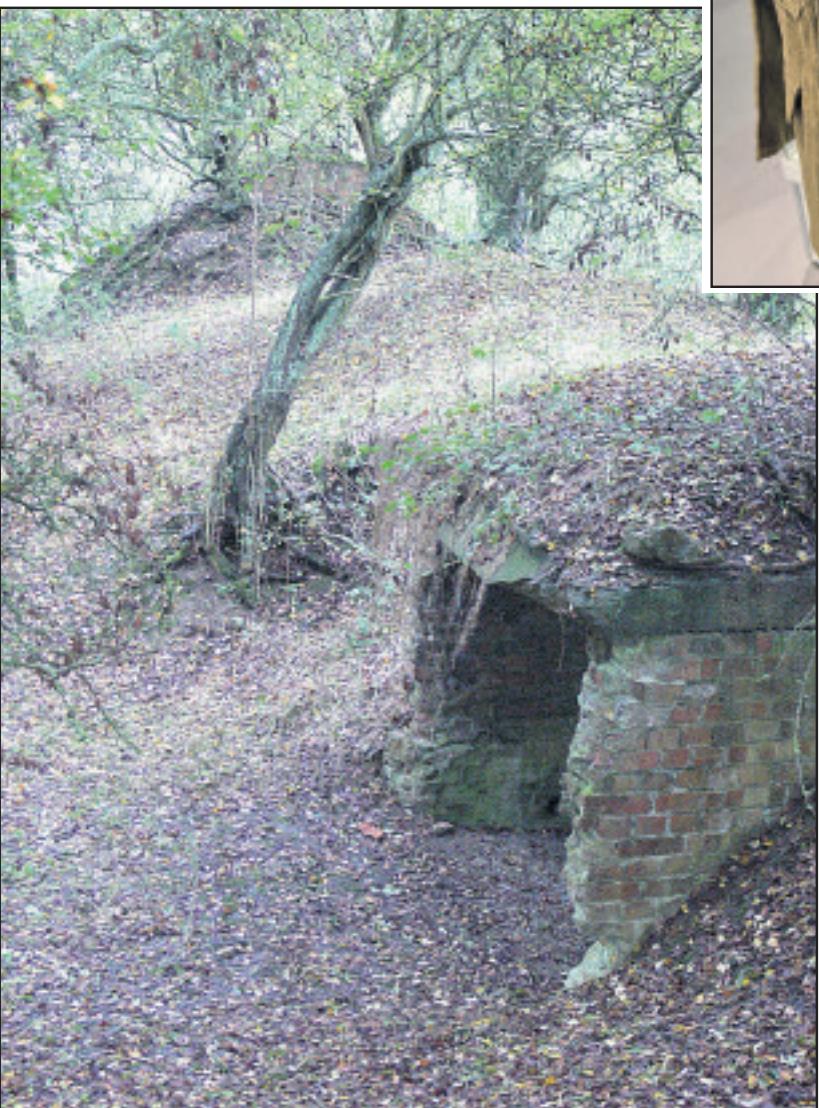
machinery, though the ruins still remain.

In 2012 English Heritage designated the derelict factory as a Scheduled Monument, giving it legal protection as an archaeological site.

The exhibition will run from Saturday to November 15.

Mr Johnston added: "I'm really looking forward to seeing the culmination of the work we have put in and I'm very interested to see how people react to it."

ABOVE: Emma Walton-Pond, marketing and communication manager at Banbury Museum, with a First World War regiment tunic worn by a soldier in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire regiment and a nurses uniform **ABOVE RIGHT:** A British short-magazine Lee Enfield rifle with, a British No 3 rifle grenade and a British pattern 1907 bayonet. **RIGHT:** A 1914 Ox and Bucks uniform **BELLOW:** The derelict remains of portals of National Filling Factory No.9 at Banbury. Shells would be transported through the portals on rails **BELLOW, LEFT:** A shell made at the factory



InBRIEF

Event to mark war's start

■ A SERVICE will be held to mark 100 years since the start of the First World War. Stained glass windows will be blessed and dedicated in Banbury Town Hall at a service the Bishop of Dorchester, Colin Fletcher, will lead from 7.30pm, on Monday, August 4. Afterwards, the beat of a muffled drum will accompany a civic procession from the town hall, in Bridge Street, to St Mary's Church, in Horsefair, at 8.30pm. A vigil will begin at 9pm before the names from the church's war memorial are recited at 9.30pm. Anyone who would like to attend should email info@banbury.gov.uk

Show goes on

■ THE show still went on when a theatre was plunged into darkness. Last Thursday, half an hour before curtain-up of *The Memory of Water* show at The Mill Arts Centre in Spiceball Park, Banbury, a power failure cut out all light and sound. Banbury Cross Players' audience stayed in the theatre and power was restored during the second half of the show.

Name contest

■ YOUNGSTERS from Banbury can enter a competition to name a fuel tanker. The competition has been setup by Certas, which owns Pace Fuelcare, based on Tramway Road. Children up to the age of 11 can submit their choice of name for one of Pace Fuelcare's fleet of oil tankers. To submit your name visit certasenergy.com/namethetanker

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■ Trust is spending millions on mental health sufferers

Patients are being sent miles away

By Mark McKay

MILLIONS of pounds has been spent sending hundreds of mental health patients outside the area for inpatient treatment – on at least one occasion more than 500 miles away.

This includes patients sent to a deaf unit in Birmingham and New Craigs Hospital, Inverness, in the Scottish Highlands – 520 miles from Oxfordshire.

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust has sent at least 219 patients out of the area since 2011 – at a cost of at least £5.23m, figures obtained under the Freedom of Information Act show.

Mental health groups and patients criticised the trust, saying placing patients away from friends and family makes it harder for them to recover.

Mother-of-three Harriet Warner, 30, was diagnosed with depression after the birth of her first child five years ago, and borderline personality disorder two years ago.

She said: "If they have family who can't come and visit you it must be terrifying."

"It's very important in recovery to be close to the people who love you, and that's for any type of recovery whether physical or mental."

The problem is money. The cuts are happening and the money is not being put in the right places.

"I'm not an economist, but it has been said there is a parity of esteem between physical and mental health, but there isn't really."

Between 2011 and 2012 the trust sent 74 people for inpatient treatment out of the area. There were 68 patients sent away from the area between 2012 and 2013.

In the first nine months of 2013/14 – the most recent figures – some 77 patients were sent further afield.

Fiona Goodall, founder of the Oxford Mental Health Forum, said: "In some cases patients are transferred for more specialist treatment.

"But it has also been reported that patients are being sent miles away due to a lack of beds and an increase in demand for services, which is extremely concerning."

"Suffering from an acute mental illness and being admitted to hospital can be a distressing time in itself, let alone being

transported miles away to a completely unfamiliar environment, away from friends and family, and there are the added financial implications associated with that."

But the trust said only "a very small percentage" of patients were sent away for treatment.

A spokesman said patients were sent outside the area when no beds were available, when patients needed specialist care or when staff were placed for confidentiality reasons.

However it could not give a breakdown of how many people for each reason.

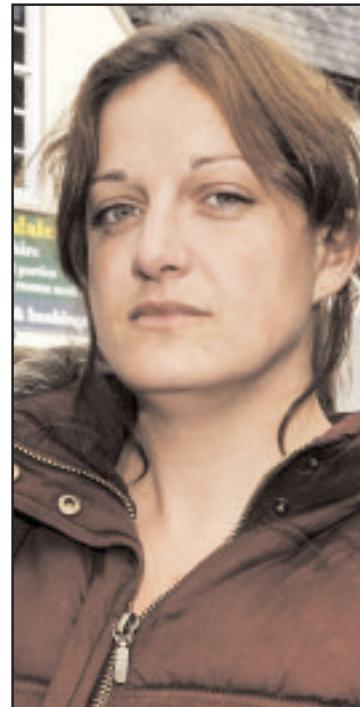
The trust has 416 beds available for patients suffering from mental health problems, eating disorders or who are involved in police criminal investigations.

However, the number of beds available for these patients can fluctuate.

Patients involved with the police or courts can be sent out of the area – away from where they committed crimes – or if court conditions mean the trust cannot treat them.

The spokesman said the costs of sending a patient to a national unit can be "in the region of £300,000" a year.

The trust has specialist services for



Harriet Warner, who suffered from post-natal depression

treating eating disorders, child and adolescent mental health problems and adult forensic cases.

In the last year the trust has opened a new adolescent unit in Oxfordshire and an inpatient facility in Bucks.

The news comes less than two weeks after it was revealed that mental health and community services authority Oxford Health feared a rise in suicide attempts in the face of cuts to a personality disorder support service.



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Just two years after starting up, telecoms accessories firm plans expansion

Business is looking to triple workforce

By Andrew Smith

A MOBILE telephone accessories manufacturer is looking to triple its workforce just two years after starting up.

Gusto wants to recruit more than 25 staff over the next six months – on top of the 12 it already employs at its Banbury headquarters.

The company has seen its annual turnover increase from £4.5m in 2012 to £6.5m this year and now bosses have set their sights on international growth, with two new bases set to be established in Ontario, Canada, and California, USA. Owner Jolyon Bennett said: "I have the ambition to make Gusto the largest seller of mobile phone accessories in the world and I am continuously looking for ways in which the company can grow."



Pictured from left, are: Adrian Philp, client manager at Lloyds Bank commercial finance, Jolyon Bennett, owner and managing director of Gusto Telecom Solutions, and Peter Rogers, relationship director at Lloyds Bank commercial banking

Gusto's Juice-branded mobile charger launched the company into the UK mobile technology market in 2012, selling 2,000 units in its first week of sale.

The company, which only moved to Haslemere Way on the Tramway Industrial Estate on May 1, has expanded its product lines to include phone covers, portable chargers and speakers.

The plans have been backed by a £200,000 overdraft from Lloyds Bank commercial banking.

The bank's relationship director Peter Rogers said: "Jolyon took an idea and made it happen, and it is thanks to his business plan and Gusto's products and packaging that the company has even more ambition for growth."

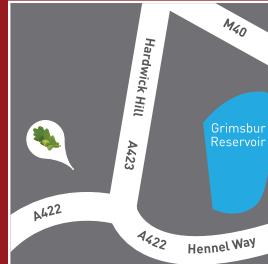
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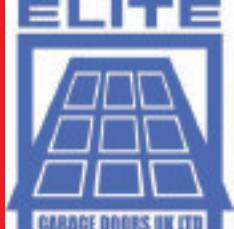


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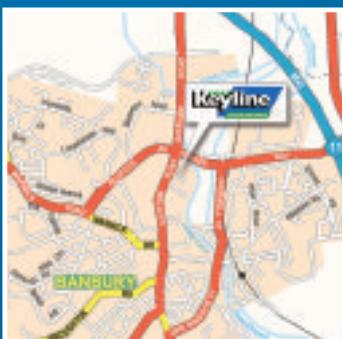


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■ Conservationists herald the breeding project as a huge success

Celebrating 25 years of return of our red kites

BIRDWATCHERS are preparing to celebrate 25 years since endangered red kites were introduced to the Chilterns on the Oxfordshire border in a major breeding programme.

Five of the birds were brought into the area a quarter of a century ago and now numbers have risen to more than 1,000 breeding pairs across large parts of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Berkshire.

Now the once-endangered species has become so prevalent that staff at helicopter base RAF Benson near Wallingford said last month they might have to shoot the birds to avoid their helicopters hitting them.

As the 25-year anniversary of the breeding programme's launch approaches, staff at the Chilterns Conservation Board say the project has been a spectacular success.

By Andrew Ffrench

Claire Forrest, of the Chilterns Conservation Board, said: "The Chilterns was picked as the first site for reintroducing kites in England because there is plenty of natural food for them to scavenge and places to nest in here."

"It is also nationally protected as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty."

"It wasn't a certainty, though, that the project would be a success, so it is absolutely fantastic that the kites have done so well."

Last month RAF Benson said it might have to shoot red kites after two military helicopters hit birds in the last two months.

The base was granted a

licence by Natural England to shoot the birds but has not yet used it.

Ms Forrest added: "We think people in the Benson area must have been putting out food for the kites and that has led to a big concentration of them in one area and we are asking people not to put out food because the kites can fend for themselves."

"The programme in the Chilterns has been so successful red kites have been taken from the Chilterns to be introduced in other parts of the country, including Gateshead in the North East and Yorkshire."

"The red kite has a five-foot wingspan so they are pretty unmistakable."

Red kites have thrived so strongly in the Chilterns that nearly 300 young birds have been taken from the area to start the breeding schemes in other parts of the UK.

Ian Lewington, county recorder for the Oxford Ornithological Society, said red kites were now a familiar sight to the general public, not just birdwatchers. The 49-year-old said: "To see my first red kite I had to drive three hours to Wales in 1980 but now if I look out of my Oxfordshire window I can usually see four or five."

On August 1, 1989, in a quiet valley in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, five red kites were brought in from Sweden and released into the wild.

The project, to reintroduce a native species that had been wiped out over previous centuries, was one of the first in the UK. Over the next five years, another 88 red kites from Spain were released in the region.

InBRIEF

Arrest warrant backing of MP

■ **BANBURY MP** Sir Tony Baldry has backed European Union powers that allow arrest warrants to be valid across the continent. The Conservative spoke during a debate on the European arrest warrant, which some fear takes too much power from UK citizens. The 2004 powers mean a judge in one EU state can enforce a warrant issued by another member state. Sir Tony, who is also a barrister, said: "If we do not have the European arrest warrant, we will need to have a large number of individual treaties with individual countries." But Conservative John Redwood said: "Once we have given away our sovereignty we have no absolute right to stop or change things."

Summer club

■ A SUMMER club for Banbury schoolchildren is returning. Fun in the Country, the holiday activity club held at Sibford School is starting on Monday, July 28. It is open to children between the ages of five and 11 and will run until August 22. Sessions run from 9.15am until 4.30pm. Details: 01295 781203.



One of the red kites, now a familiar sight throughout Oxfordshire

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■ More sex crimes are being reported 'due to the number of high-profile cases'



ABOVE:
Natalie Brook,
service
manager at
the Oxford
Sexual Abuse
and Rape
Crisis Centre

THE FIGURES

SEX crimes reported:
● CHERWELL 2012/13: 134
2013/14: 157
Rise: 17%
● OXFORDSHIRE 2012/13: 536
2013/14: 693
Rise: 29%

THE number of sex crimes reported to police in Oxfordshire rose by 29 per cent in the last year, nine percentage points above the national average increase.

Figures just released by the Office for National Statistics revealed 693 sex crimes were reported in the county between April last year and March this year – up from 536 the previous year.

The number of sex crimes from April 13 to March 14 in England and Wales rose by 20 per cent to 64,200, up from 53,620 during the same period the previous year.

Thames Valley Police said recent high profile historic sex abuse cases, including the Rolf Harris and Jimmy Savile scandals, were largely responsible for sexual offences reaching their highest level since September 2010.

A Thames Valley Police spokesman said: "The number of recorded offences continues to be influenced by the allegations against celebrities and the subsequent successful prosecutions, resulting in greater

By Luke Sproule

reporting of historical offences."

There was a 3.2 per cent drop in total crime in Oxfordshire – from 36,438 to 35,264 – with burglary, robbery and violent crime all falling.

But theft rose by one per cent, with 149 more thefts than last year, bringing the total number to 14,491.

Operation Bullfinch – launched in 2011 to investigate child sex exploitation in Oxfordshire – has so far seen nine men jailed for more than 100 years for sex crimes dating back to 2004.

This year, 21-year-old Omid Ali was jailed for 14 years for raping a vulnerable teenager, while Mustafa Ahmed was jailed for 18 months for sexually assaulting a 17-year-old in 2011.

Nationally, celebrities Harris, Max Clifford and Stuart Hall have all been jailed for historic sex crimes under Operation Yewtree.

But Natalie Brook, service manager at the Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre, said

it was difficult to know whether the rise was due to victims becoming more willing to come forward or due to a rise in the number of crimes taking place.

She said: "We know that only 15 per cent of women who have experienced sexual violence report it to the police in the first place so it is very difficult to know how many sexual offences actually happen each year.

"In general we judge it to be a good thing the rate has gone up because we feel it means more people have felt able to report their experiences.

"Victims have gained confidence in recent years because they increasingly believe that the police will believe them and support them when they come forward.

"But unlike with other crimes which have a much higher rate of reporting, it is very hard for us to know whether offences are dropping or rising because we know the disparity between offences and reported offences is so large."

Burglary fell by 11 per cent from 3,502 reported offences to 3,111,

robbery dropped by nine per cent from 222 to 203 and violent crime fell by three per cent from 4,645 offences to 4,526.

Criminal damage also fell, with the number of offences going down from 1,704, 1,518 – a fall of 11 per cent.

Drug offences went down by six per cent from 933 reported crimes to 878.

Crimes relating to possession of a weapon dropped 16 per cent from 92 to 77, but public order crimes went up from 700 to 802, a 15 per cent rise.

There was a slight increase in the number of vehicle offences, with 1,048 offences reported compared to 1,022 the year before.

Chief Constable Sara Thornton said: "The fact that crime continues to drop and, in some areas the reduction is greater than the national average, shows that the tireless work of Thames Valley Police officers and staff is paying off."

● Victims of sex crimes can contact the Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre on 0800 783 6294.

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As spread continues, fears that milk and beef prices may go up

Farmers struggling to cope with bovine TB

FARMERS are struggling to cope with the spread of bovine tuberculosis across Oxfordshire, and are warning that prices of milk and beef could go up.

In March, 63 herds in the

By Alex Wynick

county were affected by TB, and 73 cows were slaughtered.

Last year 565 herds were affected, with 640 cows slaughtered.

These are the highest figures the county has seen since 2008, and are more than Berkshire, Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire combined.

Jeremy Brown, who owns a beef farm in North Oxfordshire, has had to kill

23 cows since November because of the disease.

He said: "I'm sure this will have an impact if it hasn't already, because as there are fewer cows the cost of produce will go up a lot."

The 55-year-old said he was considering giving up his lifelong job because of the crisis, adding: "It's hopeless. Why should you go and buy a bull when it then goes down with TB?

"I don't know how long I'm going to do this. It's not worth the grief."

Mr Brown's neighbour, dairy farmer Ian Corner, lost two cows in February to TB – despite the fact that his cattle do not come into contact

with any other cows. He blamed local wildlife for infecting the herd, and said: "It's a death sentence."

"We're up against it all the time – it's just a case of when you'll be affected, not if."

Calls have been made to bring in more badger culling to help prevent the spread of TB but they have been met with criticism.

NFU South East spokeswoman Isobel Bretherton said: "It's absolutely vital that these are completed and are successful so that we have got a body of evidence that tells us we can reduce this."

Professor Tim Coulson, from Oxford University, was a member of the Independent Expert Panel that assessed the pilot badger culls in Somerset and Gloucestershire last year.

He said that culling would not help farmers, adding: "For badger culling to have an impact on bovine TB at least 70 per cent of badgers need to be culled."

John Levitt, a Defra spokesman, said: "Last year, we started rolling out a package of new measures in Oxfordshire to stop the disease spreading, including annual testing for cattle herds and free advice workshops for farmers."



Ian Corner, of Jersey Manor Farm,



Jeremy Brown, of Dovecote Farm

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Masters who tickle those ivory teeth

IT'S late July, so it must be time for the Piano Festival.

A regular fixture on Oxfordshire's cultural calendar since 1999, the Oxford Philomusica's Piano Festival and Summer Academy attracts students, professional pianists and distinguished professors from across the globe, resulting in a glorious, nine-day celebration of the piano.

The event runs from this Sunday to Monday, August 4, at various venues.

New this year is the inclusion of a choral work, Mozart's *Requiem*, in the concert line-up, featuring London-based choir Echorius and legendary pianist Menahem Pressler, who will also play Mozart's *Piano Concerto no.23 in A Major*, K488. Soloists for the *Requiem* are Julia Kogan (soprano), Katie Bray (mezzo),

By Nicola Lisle

James Edwards (tenor) and Quentin Hayes (baritone).

Marios Papadopoulos, who will conduct the concert, is delighted to see Menahem back at the festival.

"He made his debut with the Berlin Philharmonic this year, and immediately the offer came to become artist in residence," he says. "So welcoming him back to Oxford after that huge success of his is particularly nice for us."

Other popular pianists and professors returning this year include Steven Kovacevich, John Lill, Neil Immelman and Dame Fanny Waterman, but there are some exciting new names among the galaxy of stars.

"We have a legendary

professor of the piano, Ferenc Rados, the teacher of András Schiff, so András will try to come and hear his recital," Marios says. "I'm immensely looking forward to Rados's class, because my music education was from Hungarian teachers."

But of course the Piano Festival isn't just about today's stars – it is also about the stars of tomorrow. Marios had a record number of applications for this year's Summer Academy, and for the first time there is an upper age limit of 26 to encourage a greater number of young prodigies to come along.

"We have retired a number of recurring students who have been with us four or five years, simply to give the new blood a chance. So we'll be seeing a lot of new faces."

Some of the youngest participants come from Lang Lang International Music Foundation in New York, which was formed in 2008 to make classical music more accessible to children and to encourage young talent to flourish.

"They send three or four of their scholars each year, so with the two or three that we select anyway from the younger category we have probably a third of the students being aged between eight and 12. The rest are more senior."

Despite the latest innovations, the festival has changed little in 16 years and Marios is happy to stick with what he sees as a winning formula.

"I am not somebody who is interested in change for the sake of change. If something works, it works. I think I would like to bring back more chamber music, and some more lieder accompaniment so people can view the piano in that role, and maybe have a class of violin and piano."

"But the festival is still attracting more and more visitors, particularly from overseas, so I think we've got it about right. I'm looking forward to hearing the youngsters from New York, as they always promise to be very exciting, and working with Menahem Pressler again. I don't think there will be any dull moments."

Details: call 01865 980980 or visit www.oxfordphil.com

Janian Fialkowska
who will be at Oxford Philomusica's Piano Festival on Sunday



Stephen Kovacevich

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show

how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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24/07/2014



START LIVING AGAIN Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced mum, 53, 5'7", grown up children, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Is the right man out there for me? Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **798804**

NEXT CHAPTER Positive, endearing and happy-go-lucky Banbury female, 53, divorced, good sense of humour and positive, would like to meet a reserved, mellow man, to share the future with. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **172351** or send a text to **80360**

START LIVING Independent, insightful and focused Aylesbury female, 54, searching for a calm, understanding male, to build a lasting, happy future with. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **155988**

LETS GO OUT Caring, honest and reliable Witney female, 36, enjoys keeping fit and nights out at the pub with friends, would like to meet a like-minded gent, for a long term relationship. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **154935**

HOPFULLY YOURS Friendly, kind, caring Bedford female, 54, attractive, 5'2", cuddly, enjoys theatre, historical places, seaside and writing, seeks an easygoing male, 45-56, with own car, for companionship. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **169312** or send a text to **80360**

TASTE OF ROMANCE Shy and sincere Bedford-based female, 45, enjoys all the quiet things in life, now searching for a genuine, faithful and sincere man, to build a friendship and loving times together. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **172147** or send a text to **80360**

MAKE A REAL MATCH Informed, outspoken and stylish Bedford female, 46, would like to meet a tidy, articulate gent, for caring and happy times together. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **171327** or send a text to **80360**

FRIENDSHIP OR MORE? Friendly Christian lady, 54, curly Brunette, own car, enjoys indoor and outdoor life, cooking and bowling, looking for someone with similar interests, for friendship and maybe more. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **154128** or send a text to **80360**

CATCH A FALLING STAR Caring, loving, loyal, 47 year old Buckingham female, 5'1", curly, brown eyes, enjoys going to clubs, dancing, music, with a loyal, independent male, for companionship and maybe more. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **165815**

IT COULD BE US Spiritual, genuine Didcot woman, 48, attractive, fun, have grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walking and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **125828**

WITH OR WITHOUT YOU Emotional, reliable and sensitive Witney girl, 49, 5'5", enjoy cosy nights in, cinema and holidays abroad. Just looking to meet an independent, reflective gent, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **161351**

FULL OF LOVE Genuine, trustworthy, 57 year old Milton Keynes female, enjoy gardening, going out and staying in. Would like to meet a nice male for company, friendship, fun times and maybe a relationship. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **167039** or send a text to **80360**

NOT JUST ANYONE Emotional, aware and decent High Wycombe girl, 56, just looking to meet an affable, tender male, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **150736**

CATCH MY EYE Friendly, fun-loving Geordie female living in Banbury, 62, 5'2", blonde, curly, new to the area, like picnics and days out. Seeks an interesting, outgoing gent, for good times and great company. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **169899** or send a text to **80360**

EVERYONE NEEDS SOMEONE Loving, professional, honest Bedford woman, 60, enjoys outdoor sports, like socialising, holidays, camping and meals out. Would like to meet a man, with similar interests, for friendship and more. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **167294** or send a text to **80360**

ADVENTURES AHEAD Loving, caring, 68 year old Aylesbury lady, widow, like socialising, holidays, camping and meals out. Would like to meet a gentleman for friendship and more. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **173593** or send a text to **80360**

DO IT TOGETHER Down-to-earth, retired Bicester lady, 68, enjoys car boot sales, bingo, eating out and generally always up for a laugh, would like to meet a kind, caring gent, for friendship and maybe more. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **158321** or send a text to **80360**

WALK OF LIFE Self-assured, strong-minded, and motivated Bampton girl, 72, just looking to meet a friendly, trustworthy male, for a special and lasting relationship. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **156046** or send a text to **80360**

THE LONG TERM Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 62, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **170896** or send a text to **80360**

SEEKING THE RIGHT MAN Separative, attractive Witney female, 62, 5'2", curly, likes cooking evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, also with a great sense of humour, 5'10", med build, for friendship and maybe more. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **128289** or send a text to **80360**

SHARING A LIFE Loyal, caring, artistic Milton Keynes lady, 63, enjoys home life, sport and travel, searching for an honest gent, for friendship and maybe more. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **167144** or send a text to **80360**

SHARING THE LOVE Straight-forward Aylesbury female, 58, enjoys walks, shopping and all the usual things in life, searching for a normal, friendly man, to share company and a happy future. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **174213** or send a text to **80360**

SIMILAR TO MYSELF? Cuddly, honest, witty woman, 59, 5'3", N/S, blonde hair, likes swimming, the theatre and weekend breaks away, seeking a humorous, reliable male, with similar interests, to share a life together. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **153853** or send a text to **80360**

ONE LOVE Warm-hearted, caring and sensible Aylesbury female, 52, 5'6", searching for an energetic, trustworthy male, good sense of humour a must, for friendship and romance. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **155653**

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MADE FOR EACH OTHER Happy-go-lucky Abingdon-On-Thames male, 48, 5'9", medium build, short hair, likes walks, cinema, social drink, quiet pubs, seeking a nice woman, for friendship and hopefully more. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **166651** or send a text to **80360**

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL Kind, caring, down-to-earth Thame male, 48, enjoys music, country walks, cooking, reading, films, seeking a kind, sincere, slim female, 25+, Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **137427**

LOVE TO HAVE A LAUGH Hardworking Oxford male, 52, 5'7", brown hair, own flat, likes socialising, cooking, nights in, seeks nice young lady for friendship leading to more. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **121027** or send a text to **80360**

KEEPING WITH THE TIMES Happy-go-lucky, blue-eyed Banbury man, 61, 5'6", slim build, likes gardening, cinema, meals out, travel, country side and 60s music, seeks genuine lady, for friendship maybe more. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **156014** or send a text to **80360**

LOVE ONE YOU'RE WITH Friendly, warm-hearted Abingdon male, 52, good sense of humour, would like to meet a caring, well-matured girl, to enjoy good times together. Is you're looking for true love, then get in touch. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **115894**

DECISION IS YOURS Honest, easygoing Yorkshire man living in Banbury, 61, 5'6", slim build, self-employed, likes gardening, cooking, cinema, travel, countryside, seeks genuine lady, to share life with. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **140930**

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 54, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **466028**

POSITIVE ATTITUDE Fit Latino male, 62, looks for someone who shares his passion for football and hopefully love with. Oxford. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **460523**

SCRUBS UP WELL! Optimistic, positive, 62 Witney male. I'm active with a good sense of humour. Having diverse interests and still scrubbing up well, seeking an attractive lady who is also active and enjoys life. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **170363** or send a text to **80360**

LOUD LIKE A THUNDERSTORM Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 79, non smoker, likes social drinks from time to time, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving and lasting relationship. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **100937**

HAPPY DAYS Honest female, 58, new to Luton, searching for a sincere female friend, to socialise with and enjoy a little of life. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **115894**

ANYONE OUT THERE? Young-at-heart, 66 year old Luton female, would like to meet a female of a similar age for friendship and to go on holiday together this year. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **170118** or send a text to **80360**

IT'S YOUR MOVE Outgoing, energetic and warm-hearted Oxford male, 42, likes nights out, pubs, clubs, live music and loads more, simply searching for an outgoing older man, for fun times, laughter and lots more. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **103263** or send a text to **80360**

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW... Easygoing, friendly Didcot male, 67, enjoys walks, theatre, eating out, and more, searching for a serious-minded lady, for a loving and supportive relationship. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **109413** or send a text to **80360**

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD Tender, stable, fit and romantic Oxford man, 67, would like to find an artistic, female, for sharing life's memorable moments and outings including concerts and long walks in the country. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **150131**

LONG LASTING HAPPINESS Solvent, retired business gent, North Oxfordshire, 68, own home/car, enjoys walking and keeping fit, GSOH, would like to meet a nice, bright lady, for fun times and see where that leads to. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **159314**

PASSION FLOWER Creative, instinctive and sympathetic Wallingford man, 60, looking for an approachable, helpful female, to share the future with. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **101122** or send a text to **80360**

A FRIEND INDEED Semi-retired Oxford male, 68, 6', slim-build, likes playing bowls, home life, seeking an easygoing female, for good times and more. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **157812**

BEST OF FRIENDS Caring, sociable 67 Abingdon-On-Thames male. I am semi-retired, presentable and cheerful, looking for similar male to share good times, fun and friendship with. Call **0905 005 2359** and enter box number **161819** or send a text to **80360**

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Going ape for two hours of thrilling animal magic

DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (12A, 130 mins) Sci-Fi/Action/Thriller/Romance. Andy Serkis, Jason Clarke, Keri Russell, Kodi Smit-McPhee, Toby Kebbell, Gary Oldman, Nick Thurston, Kirk Acevedo, Jon Eyez, Enrique Murciano. Director: Matt Reeves.

Blending state-of-the-art special effects with an intelligent script, *Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes* conjures two hours of animal magic that looks set to be crowned king of the blockbuster swingers.

Tim Burton's abortive *Planet Of The Apes* is now a distant memory thanks to the 2011 revamp *Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes* and this superior sequel, which pushes the art of motion-capture performance to new limits.

Andy Serkis' exemplary work as Caesar, the super-intelligent chimpanzee who leads the ape uprising, is the film's emotional heartbeat.

His ability to convey the character's rage, despair and passion through movement and subtle gesture is breathtaking.

Toby Kebbell is also compelling as Caesar's war-mongering rival, who believes the key to his species' survival is the extermination of humans.

Mark Bomback, Rick Jaffa and Amanda Silver's script elegantly draws parallels between the feuding primates, juxtaposing tender scenes of parenting with bruising skirmishes that create divisions on both sides.

Ten winters have passed since simian flu ravaged the globe.

In the absence of law and order, basic resources such as water, food and electricity are dangerously depleted.

One-time military man Dreyfus (Gary Oldman), who lost his entire family to the virus, leads survivors of the ALZ-113 virus in San Francisco.

He despatches a team led by family man Malcolm (Jason Clarke) to access the O'Shaughnessy Dam, which provides the city with electricity.

In the forest that envelops the dam, the scouting party encounters apes led by Caesar, including his ambitious second-in-command Koba (Kebbell), impetuous son Blue Eyes (Nick Thurston) and Bornean orangutan Maurice (Karin Konoval).

Malcolm's trigger-happy compatriot Carver (Kirk Acevedo) shoots one of the apes and the humans are banished to their stronghold.

Once Dreyfus learns about the neighbouring ape community, he asks Malcolm and co to refrain from telling the other survivors.

"They're talking apes with big-ass spears!" shrieks Carver.

Malcolm realises that he must earn Caesar's trust to gain access to the dam so he prepares to return to the forest with wife Ellie (Keri Russell) and teenage son Alexander (Kodi Smit-McPhee).

"If you're not back in three days, we're going to go out there and kill every last one of them," warns Dreyfus.

Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes is a slick thrill ride with brains as well as brawn.

The grim mood, which permeates



the first half, leads to all-guns-blazing war and director Reeves orchestrates these brutal sequences with elan.

Digital effects are jaw-dropping, giving birth to a realistic army of blood-thirsty apes who cram every chaotic, blood-spattered frame.

The film's strong anti-gun message comes through loud and clear, but the appetite for destruction overpowers diplomacy.

"I always think ape better than humans," laments Caesar as his dream of lasting peace founders. "I see now how like them we are."

A scene from
*Dawn Of The
Planet Of The
Apes*

Picture: PA
Photo/ Fox
UK

CakeWhat's on

Music

SUNDAY: Blue Boar, Goddards Lane, Chipping Norton: Joe Holic. Making his venue debut with mixture of covers old and new. 5pm. 01608 643525.

Exeter College Chapel, Turl Street, Oxford: Tudor Music by Candlelight: Ravish'd by Magic. Award-winning Charivari Agréable explores magic, necromancy and superstition in the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I via contemporary anecdotes and readings from Shakespeare's sonnets, Macbeth and Hamlet, with songs and instrumental pieces from the Golden Age of England and Spain: Dowland, Lawes, Morley, Simpson. 8pm. £16, £15 (seniors), £10 (full-time students). 01865 305305.

Theatre

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury:

Jul 25, Martin Carthy. For more than 40 years Martin Carthy has been one of folk music's greatest innovators, one of its best loved, most enthusiastic and, at times, most quietly controversial of figures. His skill, stage presence and natural charm have won him many admirers, not only from within the folk scene, but also far beyond it. 8pm. £14, concession £12.

Jul 26, Motown Express. A new breathtaking Motown show comes to The Mill Arts Centre brilliantly recreating the music of Motown legends.

It has now been over 50 years since Berry Gordy started his Motown Empire back in 1959 in Detroit Michigan. Studio A was housed in a converted garage behind the building he soon dubbed Hitsville U.S.A. It was from these humble beginnings Motown was born and still commands immense audience support and appreciation today. 8pm. £17. Box office: 01865 305305.

Aug 4-5, Fairport Convention. The local heroes are back for two shows on the eve of their 35th annual music festival at Cropredy. These two concerts will be the band's traditional pre-festival 'warm ups' and will prove as popular as ever. Fairport will showcase the repertoire chosen for their set at Cropredy. 7.30pm. £24. Box office: 01295 279002.

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Jul 30, see encore Monty Python Live (mostly), a recorded screening of the show from Jul 20. For the first time in more than 30 years, the comedy legends will perform live. At a combined age of just 358, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Michael Palin will perform some of their greatest hits, with modern, topical, Pythonesque twists. Python influenced a generation and revolutionised comedy. 7pm. £13. Box office: 01608 642350.

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Burnham	11	4	0	4	3	23	126		
Aston Rowant	11	2	2	4	3	41	110		
Harefield	11	1	0	7	3	40	83		
Gerrards Cross	11	1	1	7	2	44	79		
Division 2									
	P	W	D	L	A	Bon	Pts		
Reading	11	6	1	0	3	9	190		
Horspath	11	6	0	3	2	20	172		
Shipton	11	4	0	3	4	20	139		
Finchampstead	11	4	1	3	3	24	137		
Amersham	11	3	1	5	2	49	134		
Dinton	11	3	0	4	4	26	120		
Cove	11	3	2	2	4	17	117		
*Falkland	11	2	1	5	3	45	110		
Great & L Tew	11	3	0	5	3	26	109		
Chesham	11	2	1	6	2	32	87		
* pts deducted									

Comprehensive seven-wicket defeat sees Banbury slip to third in Div 1 table

Knocked off perch

BANBURY were knocked off the top of the Division 1 table when they suffered a comprehensive seven-wicket defeat away to reigning champions Henley on Saturday.

Despite a spirited last-wicket stand, Banbury could muster only 139 after being put in to bat, and Henley, who are coming into form after a slow start, eased home inside 32 overs.

The result drops Banbury to third behind new leaders High Wycombe and Henley.

They are only a point ahead of fourth-placed Slough.

Banbury opener Lloyd Sabin departed for a duck, one of four victims of Tahir Afridi, who also dismissed Richard West and Nathan Hawkes for single figures.

Dan Harris and Jonny Cater briefly arrested the slide, before Harris fell to the left-arm spin of Gurveer Singh.

Henley skipper Bjoorn Mordt (4-30) then ripped through the Banbury middle and lower order to leave them in dire straits at 92-9.

Late resistance came from Liam Manley and skipper Jimmy Phillips who shared a last-wicket stand of 47.

Manley finished with the top score of 35, before becoming the last victim of Afridi who ended with 4-35.

The innings lasted 52.1 overs. Banbury opted for a mixture of seam and spin when Henley began the reply and it reaped early dividends when left-arm Luke Ryan dismissed David Barnes for one.

That was Ryan's only joy as Ben McDermott (38) and Euan Brock (60no) hit him for 52 in ten overs, while Phillips's off-spin was also severely punished.

Banbury will be hoping to get back to winning ways when they entertain Tring Park this Saturday.



Banbury opening batsman Lloyd Sabin

SCORECARD

BANBURY	
L Sabin c McDermott b Afridi	0
D Harris c Mordt b Singh	21
R West c Roberts b Afridi	2
N Hawkes c Roberts b Afridi	4
J Cater b Mordt	20
I Tew lbw Mordt	3
L Ryan c Davison b Mordt	12
A Blanchard b Singh	12
O Wright c McDermott b Mordt	1
I Manley b Afridi	35
J Phillips not out	18
Extras	11
Total (all out, 52.1 ovs)	139
Bowling: Afridi 13.1-4-35-4, Nugent 9-2-25-0, Carter 4-2-10-0, Mordt 13-2-30-4, Singh 13-3-29-2.	
HENLEY	
M Roberts b Wright	20
D Barnes b Ryan	1
B McDermott c Blanchard b West	38
E Brock not out	60
B Mordt not out	10
Extras	11
Total (3 wkt, 31.3 ovs)	140
Bowling: Blanchard 3-0-9-0, Ryan 10-2-52-1, Wright 8-1-19-1, Phillips 4-0-30-0, West 6.3-1-20-1.	
● Henley 25pts, Banbury 4	



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STARS with Claire Petulengro



Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

It's frustrating when you can feel how close you are to getting something that you want, but others are standing in your way. What happened to that gift of patience you were given earlier in the month? Find it and use it and you will still reach your destination. You'll just be less stressed. Midweek meetings promise a game plan for the year ahead. Ring so I can tell you your future now.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

Venus brings mixed emotions. This is making it hard for you to know what and who you want this week. Try to bide your time and don't just speak for the sake of it or you could risk losing what you want. Others are trying to convince you that they know your mind better than you do. This isn't true. Stand strong and don't be pushed before you're ready. Ring me for support.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

The written word, be it by text, email or letter is important and holds information which can help shape a better future for yourself. The older generation could prove problematic and a drain on your time and resources, but bear with them. They are working towards a change which will make all of your lives easier. Ring now to hear why you must reveal all at new introductions.

0906 585 4362

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

What you thought to be a promise last week could well turn out to have been nothing more than a suggestion this week. Keep an open mind and be prepared for changes to happen in the middle of events and circumstances. Being flexible is the key to them working out in your favour, as is showing manners. Ring now to hear how Mars enables you to pass tests you thought too difficult.

0906 585 4363

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

Jealousy rears its head this week and could see you saying and doing things you will come to regret. Try not to accuse your close ones of things you may not have done, or you could put a distance between you which is not easy to repair. Putting your energies into finishing things you didn't complete midweek gives you back your confidence and gets you back on track. Ring now to find out more.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

You may know a lot but you can't know everything and aspects suggest that it would be a good idea for you to train or study more for what you want to do. Information is on hand this week thanks to Mercury, which can show you what needs to be done to take things to the next level. Phone calls and texts this weekend give you a new social lease on life. Ring now for an important love prediction.

0906 585 4365

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

Family prove hard to deal with and it may seem at times this week that you are talking different languages for all the common ground you can find. By Thursday, you could and should agree to disagree. We don't have to be exactly the same as our close ones to live in harmony with them. Variety is the spice of life as they say. Ring now to hear why travel is imperative to business success.

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

Your feelings are growing deeper by the day and you may not feel as comfortable as you had hoped with the complexities you are experiencing. Ride with it Libra. Acknowledge that nothing has to happen if you don't want it to. Talks and time spent with new faces open up your world of choices and make you feel more worldly when making decisions. Ring now so I can help you.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

Don't make promises you have no intention of keeping. You will be far better to keep an open diary and offer no commitments if you want to be sure of keeping that friendship or relationship in your life. Things you apply for on Friday can pay dividends so use this is a your day to deal with any delicate issues too. Ring now so we can talk about what really went on last weekend.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

There have been some significant clues offered to you in recent days about how much others are willing to support you in your life and I want to be sure that you're taking on board the signs which have been presented before you. Ignoring them could see you trapped in a bad situation for months and not just weeks. Ring now to focus on the best you can get in your life.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

Stress levels begin to decline as you start to distance yourself from all that was making you feel negative about life. Something clicked in you on Friday and you're no longer willing to be unhappy. Those who don't want to be around will be in for a shock this week then when you cut them out of your life and heart. Ring now to hear how Neptune delivers you messages in your dreams.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

You need some time for reflection now, don't you Aquarius? You need to work out what the last three months really meant to you. Can you answer this question so don't try asking friends, or you'll end up making decisions which are not suited to you. Accept the offer of a day out somewhere different. It can put the spring back in your step and the inspiration in your heart. Ring now for answers.

0906 585 4370

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

Family prove hard to deal with and it may seem at times this week that you are talking different languages for all the common ground you can find. By Thursday, you could and should agree to disagree. We don't have to be exactly the same as our close ones to live in harmony with them. Variety is the spice of life as they say. Ring now to hear why travel is imperative to business success.

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3
SERVICES



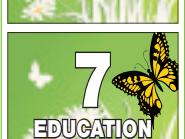
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5
ENTERTAINMENTS



6
HOLIDAYS



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MOTORS



11
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Little Mii makes a major impression

By David Duffy

DRIVE the SEAT Mii for a mile or two and you might not fully understand just what this car is capable of. Drive it for a couple of hundred and you certainly will.

The Mii (pronounced me) lines up alongside its sister vehicles, the Volkswagen up! and Skoda Citigo as super-sensitive, four-seater city cars, that all punch well above their weight. With space for four adults and a decent deep boot, all are capable of much more than the city car tag suggests.

Nippy, lightweight and easy to manoeuvre around town, the Mii's character starts to shine through when it faces long-distance motorway travel.

And it genuinely takes a long journey for you to fully appreciate just how well put together, quiet and refined this little car really is.

Priced from just over £8,000, the car's build quality is superb and that translates into a relaxed, rattle-free ride, that makes the car feel larger than it is. Instrumentation is simple and clear and switchgear is straightforward and well laid out. The equipment fitted to the car also enhances the air of a larger car.

The Toca special edition builds on the upmarket SE trim, so as well as air conditioning, height-adjustable driver's seat, a split-folding rear

bench, four extra speakers, electric front windows and remote central locking, you also get a leather-trimmed steering wheel rim and gear knob and the so-called SEAT Portable System. This is a smartphone-sized, removable device with a five-inch touchscreen that clips neatly on to a dashboard-mounted holder. It combines satellite-navigation, Bluetooth phone connectivity, an on-board computer and audio playback via an SD card.

Again, despite its size, the Slovakian-built Mii has big-car safety features, ranging from anti-lock brakes and four airbags as standard across the range.

But most impressive is the availability, for £200, of the City Safety Assist system, which automatically applies the brakes in the event of a potential frontal collision. The system works at 19mph or below by using a laser mounted behind the



RELAXED RIDE: The Mii city car really comes into its own on longer motorway journeys

rear view mirror. If an imminent collision is detected, the system primes the brakes and if the driver makes no effort to slow the car, it applies them — hard. I have tried the system in the sister Volkswagen up! and it works.

Power comes from a low-emission, 1.0-litre, three-cylinder petrol engine, with a choice of 60 or 75 horsepower outputs. The warranty package includes three-year cover, two-year European-wide roadside assistance package, and servicing at 20,000-mile intervals.

If you are tempted to take a test drive at a dealership, make sure it is a long one.

Auto facts

Model: SEAT Mii Toca
Price: £9,995
Insurance group: 2 (1-50)
Fuel consump (Combined): 62.8mpg
Top speed: 109mph
Length: 355.7cm/140in
Width: 164.1cm/64.6in
Luggage capacity: 8.8 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity:
 7.7 gallons/35 litres
CO₂ emissions: 108g/km
Warranty: 3 years/60,000 miles

Classiccarnews

Rally bonanza is planned for Ford fans

HUNDREDS of old Fords will once again converge at the Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, when it hosts the sixth Old Ford Rally with the Ford Y&C Club. The show, which takes place on Sunday, July 27, is the biggest rally of old Fords in the UK and expected to show-case over 500 vehicles. Old Fords and all derivatives including commercials, tractors and vehicles with a Ford engine, built up to 1990 will be on display exhibiting the tremendous range of vehicles produced by one of the world's biggest manufacturers. This year the show will not incor-

porate the Transit Van Clubs annual rally which will now take place from August 8-10, alongside the new Classic Van and Pick-up Show. On display will be a wide range of vehicles from Model Ts to the cars of the pre-war austerity years plus agricultural vehicles, Thames and Ford commercial and military vehicles and the more luxurious post-war Zephyrs, Zodiacs and Granadas plus the Mk1 and Mk2 family Cortinas and Ford Anglias and Escorts. There will also be the early 1960s' Ford Classic Capri and the later

1970s and 80s Ford Capri in large numbers on display. The show will host a small club entry of pre 1990 Ford Transits and there will be a Ford auto-jumble and an arena with commentary throughout the day. Tom Caren, show manager for the Heritage Motor Centre, said: "The Old Ford Rally is a great day out for anyone interested in old vehicles and is not just for Ford enthusiasts." Tickets for the rally cost £12 on the day for adults, £8 for children and £34 for a family. See heritage-motor-centre.co.uk for event details and online prices.

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Wheelsanddeals

■ MAZDA was named 'Best Car Manufacturer' at the 2014 *Which?* awards. The awards are allocated to those companies that consistently get it right for consumers. This year, Mazda was one of 11 winners. In the automotive sector, the Japanese-brand fought off tough competition from Audi, BMW, Honda and Skoda to once again claim the crown it first won in 2008. *Which? Magazine* said: "Mazda is a worthy winner with more than two-thirds of its cars rated as best buys and scored well with owners for reliability and satisfaction."

■ THE new Jeep Cherokee, priced from £25,495, will be available with a choice of 140 and 170bhp 2.0-litre turbo-diesel engines. The more powerful is linked to a nine-speed automatic gearbox. The more off-road focused Trailhawk model comes only with a 3.2-litre petrol engine and auto transmission. It will be available by order from the end of the year.

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2004 54 HONDA ACCORD 2.0 Sport. Black. Local car. Excellent service history. Alloys. Aircon. PAS. Radio/CD. Remote central locking. Electric windows/door mirrors. etc. Fantastic performance. Superb condition throughout. Sold with a new MOT a full service. HPI Clear	£3,150
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